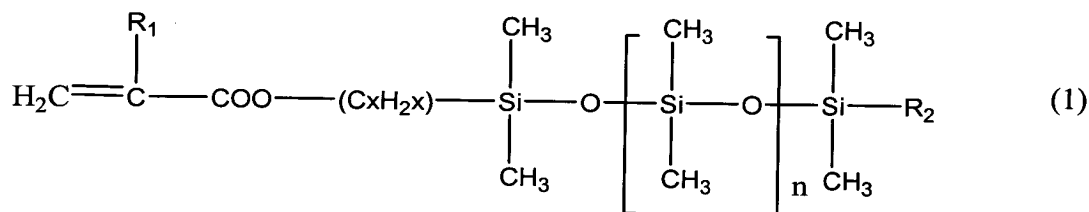


REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-24 are now active in this application. Claim 1 has been amended by reciting a Markush group of the monomers having an acidic group and the monomers having a basic group that can be used in preferred embodiments of the present invention. Claim 5 has been amended by specifying that the polymer soluble in the silicone oil can undergo an acid-base reaction with the colored particulate material dispersed in the silicone oil. New claim 24 has been added, corresponding to original claim 1, further specifying that the polymer that is soluble in the silicone oil and the colored particulate material undergo an acid-base dissociation reaction in the silicone oil. These amendments are supported by the specification at pages 18-21 and page 15, lines 8-9. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

Applicants representative would like to thank Examiner Robertson for the courteous and helpful discussion of the issues in the present application on December 2, 2003. Applicants would like to thank Examiner Robertson for the indication that the claims as now amended would be allowable over the art of record.

The present invention relates to a polymer comprising units obtained from a monomer having either an acidic or basic group that is capable of undergoing an acid-base dissociation reaction in a silicone oil, and a monomer having the formula (1):



Further the present invention relates to an image displaying medium comprising a pair of electroconductive layers, at least one of these being light transmissive and the layers being opposed one another to form a cell and a dispersion comprising a silicone oil, a colored

particulate material dispersed therein and a polymer dispersed therein, wherein the polymer and the colored particulate material can undergo an acid-base dissociation reaction in the silicone oil.

The invention further relates to a composition comprising a silicone oil, a colored particulate material and polymer dispersed therein, wherein the particulate and the polymer can undergo an acid-base dissociation reaction in the silicone oil.

The claims stand rejected under either 35 U.S.C. 102(e) or under 35 U.S.C. 103 over Alli et al, Maiden et al, or Albert et al. None of these references disclose or suggest the invention as claimed. In particular, both of Alli et al and Maiden et al disclose compositions that use siloxane polymers similar to those of the present invention, but do not suggest the use of a comonomer having an acidic or basic group that is capable of undergoing an acid-base dissociation reaction in a silicone oil. In fact, the Examiner relies on the disclosure in each of these references of a monomer of 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate as the monomer having a "basic group" OH. However, this monomer would not act as a basic group containing monomer (or an acidic group containing monomer) in a silicone oil composition. In fact, as noted in the present application at page 19, lines 1-2, this monomer is considered a nonionic polar group containing monomer in such compositions.

The present invention requires that the monomer having an acidic or basic group must be able to undergo an acid-base dissociation reaction in the silicone oil medium. This requirement is further elaborated in claim 1 by specifying the monomers to be used. In new claim 24, the composition requires also the presence of colored particulate materials and a silicone oil, neither of which are part of the disclosures of Alli or Maiden, both of which are

Application No. 10/055,905
Reply to Office Action of August 26, 2003

directed to contact lens compositions which would not contain colored particulates or silicone oil. As such, these references cannot suggest the present invention as now claimed.

Further, Albert discloses electrophoretic displays which can have multiple electrodes. However, this reference neither discloses nor suggests the use of a polymer containing monomers with acidic or basic groups which undergo an acid-base dissociation reaction with a colored particulate material in the composition as required in the present invention. As such, this reference cannot suggest the presently claimed invention.

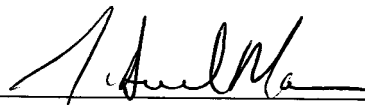
Since the cited references neither disclose nor suggest the present invention, the rejections should be withdrawn.

The Examiner has objected to Figure 3. This objection is obviated by the revised Figure 3 provided herewith.

Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance and early notification of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

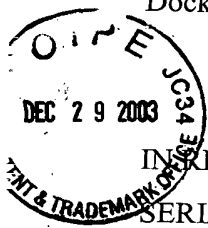
OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



J. Derek Mason
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 35,270

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 08/03)



Docket No.: 218202US0

RECEIVED

JAN 13 2004

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

TO 1700

IN RE APPLICATION: Masahiro YANAGISAWA

SERIAL NO.: 10/055,905

GAU: 1712

FILED: January 28, 2002

EXAMINER: ROBERTSON, JEFFREY

FOR: SILICONE-OIL SOLUBLE POLYMER, IMAGE DISPLAY MEDIUM USING THE
SILICONE-OIL SOLUBLE POLYMER AND IMAGE DISPLAY DEVICE USING THE
IMAGE DISPLAY MEDIUM

LETTER SUBMITTING DRAWING SHEET(S)

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
Alexandria, VA 22313

SIR:

Responsive to the below indicated communication, the following drawing sheets are submitted herewith:

☒ 1 Replacement Drawing Sheets ☐ ____ New Drawing Sheets

☒ Official Action dated August 26, 2003

☐ Notice of Allowance/Issue Fee dated ____

☐ Other dated ____

The changes and/or modifications made include the following:

Office Action, dated August 26, 2003, required FIG.3 to be designated as "PRIOR ART".
The drawing submitted herewith has been corrected as required.

Respectfully submitted,

Norman F. Oblon

Registration No. 24,618

Customer Number

22850

Tel. (703) 413-3000
Fax. (703) 413-2220
(OSMMN 05/2003)

J. Derek Mason

Registration No. 35,270